

Message Text

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S/S- MR. BRIDGES
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 079669

NODIS
WH FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, NI

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN AND EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE
AND NIGERIAN INITIATIVE

1. BEGIN FYI: ZAIRE FONMIN NGUZA TOLD US AMBASSADOR
KINSHASA APRIL 7 THAT ZAIRE HAD ACCEPTED MOROCCAN OFFER
,500 TROOPS AND WOULD SHORTLY BEGIN TO FERRY THEM INTO
LUBUMBASHI. NGUZA ALSO SAID LIKE NUMBER EGYPTIAN TROOPS
WILL PROBABLY ARRIVE NEXT WEEK AND THAT EGYPTIAN MISSION
WOULD SHORTLY BEGIN TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEM. IN
ANSWER TO OUR AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION NGUZA SAID HE
PLANNED TO INFORM NIGERIA OF MOROCCAN INVOLVEMENT AFTER

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IT WAS WELL UNDERWAY. AS MOROCCAN INVOLVEMENT BEING
CARRIED BY NEWS AGENCIES WE DOUBT THAT NGUZA CAN DELAY
INFORMING OTHER GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING NIGERIAN. END FYI

2. WE ARE CONCERNED TO ENSURE THE NIGERIANS DO NOT
MISCONSTRUE WHAT IS OCCURRING AS ESCALATION ORGANIZED BY
US OR ARE NOT OTHERWISE DIVERTED FROM MEDIATION EFFORTS

BY ANYTHING WHICH ANGOLAN DELEGATION PRESENTLY IN LAGOS

MIGHT SAY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE DO NOT WISH TO SOUND DEFENSIVE SO FAR AS MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE IS CONCERNED.

3. YOU SHOULD ACCORDINGLY MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO FMG AT AP,ROPRIATE LEVEL.

-- A. WE WERE INFORMED ON APRIL 8 BY ZAIRE THAT THE MOROCCANS WERE SENDING 1500 TROOPS TO ASSIST THEM. RABAT HAS ALSO CONFIRMED THIS.(IF PRESSED TO SAY WHETHER MOROCCO OR ZAIRE HAD CONSULTED WITH US, YOU MAY SAY MOROCCANS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN TO US REGARDING LARGER IMPLICATIONS OF KATANGAN INVASION AND INDICATED THEY WERE CONSIDERING SENDING ASSISTANCE).

-- B. FACT THAT ZAIRIAN FORCES WERE NOT ABLE TO HANDLE INVASION BY KATANGAN GENDARMES, AND ZAIRE FELT THE NEED TO ASK FELLOW AFRICAN STATE FOR ASSISTANCE ONLY MAKES THE MEDIATION EFFORT, WHICH NIGERIA IS PURSUING SO VIGOROUSLY, MORE IMPORTANT.

-- C. WE WOULD HOPE THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STABILIZATION OF SITUATION, AND THEREBY FACILITATE DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION.

-- D. YOU SHOULD RECALL GARBA'S STATEMENT TO SECRETARY MARCH 21 REGARDING OBASANJO'S HOPES THAT THE US AND
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NIGERIA ACT JOINTLY TO LOCALIZE THE PROBLEM. THIS IS STILL OUR WISH.

-- E. INTENSIFIED DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ARE NEEDED NOW TO BRING QUICK END TO VIOLENCE, WHICH HAS ALREADY CONTINUED TOO LONG. PRESENCE OF ANGOLAN DELEGATION IN LAGOS PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CLEAR DESIRE OF ALL OF US TO FIND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO PRESENT CONFLICT.
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